

APPLICATION

FOR

UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that WENDA MASON invented certain improvements in IMPROVED FATTY ACID-BASED HERBICIDAL COMPOSITION of which the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings is a specification, like reference characters on the drawings indicating like parts in the several figures.

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IMPROVED FATTY ACID-BASED HERBICIDAL COMPOSITION

Background of the Invention

This invention relates to herbicidal compositions which are effective, economical and environmentally compatible. More particularly, an improved herbicidal composition has been obtained by combining a fatty acid-based active ingredient with a glyphosate-based active ingredient.

Herbicides are widely used to control the rate of growth or to cause mortality in unwanted or undesirable plant species. Among the most widely used herbicides are those which are petrochemical-based. Although quite effective, many petrochemical-based herbicides are considered to pose hazards to the environment, as well as to humans, animals and aquatic life.

Due to concerns for such hazards posed by petrochemical-based herbicides, several environmentally compatible herbicides have been developed. Fatty acid based compounds having between eight and eighteen carbon atoms serve as an example of one class of environmentally compatible herbicides. These compounds occur naturally in soil and decompose quite rapidly (i.e., within about 1-3 days) within soil. An exemplary fatty acid-based herbicidal compositions is commercially available

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Such fatty acid-based herbicides are quite effective for most applications. However, like most pesticides, they are not well suited for all applications. For example, these compositions are not able to translocate and are thus only effective on the plant tissue which is contacted by the herbicidal composition. Also, because such compositions are used in relatively high concentrations of active ingredient, i.e., 3 to 6 percent, their use can be costly.

One petrochemical-based herbicide which apparently exhibits minimal environmental impact is a glyphosate-based composition. This compound is an effective, broad spectrum herbicide which has the ability to translocate within plant systems. Glyphosate-based herbicides can be expensive to use, and typically must be applied at concentrations in the range of 1 to 2 percent. One potential drawback to the use of glyphosate-based compounds is that they do not occur naturally and have an average half-life in soil slightly less than 60 days.

While fatty acid based herbicides are advantageous due to their environmental compatibility, they lack the ability to translocate, and must be used in relatively high concentrations. Glyphosate-based herbicides must also be used in relatively high concentrations and are relatively expensive. Moreover, it would be desirable to provide a herbicidal composition which combines the beneficial features of these herbicides, while reducing the amounts of non-naturally-occurring compounds, such as glyphosate, which are environmentally released.

It is thus an object of the invention to provide an effective, broad spectrum herbicide which is environmentally compatible and economically feasible. Another object is to provide a herbicide which has the advantages of the fatty acid-based herbicide, but which also has the ability to translocate. An additional object of the invention is to provide an effective herbicidal composition with improved efficacy. A further object of the invention is to provide a herbicidal composition which combines two known active ingredients in such a way that the concentration of each of the individual components is present at levels less than what is recommended for herbicidal activity. It is also an object of the invention to provide an effective herbicide while at the same time reducing the pesticide load in the environment. Other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon reading the following disclosure.

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Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides an effective, environmentally compatible herbicidal composition which combines two known active ingredients such that each is present at a concentration below what is recommended for herbicidal activity of each ingredient alone. The composition combines a fatty acid-based herbicide with a glyphosate-based herbicide. The fatty acid component may be a fatty acid such as caprylic acid, pelargonic acid, capric acid, undecanoic acid, 10-undecanoic acid, lauric acid, oleic acid and mixtures of these fatty acids and other fatty acid mixtures such as soybean fatty acid and coconut fatty acid. In another embodiment salts, or mixtures of various salts of these fatty acids may be used as one herbicidal active ingredient. The glyphosate component preferably is N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine, its derivatives or the salts thereof. The fatty acid or fatty acid salt component is present in the range of 0.1 to 3.0 percent by weight of the composition while the glyphosate component is present at 0.08 to 2.0 percent by weight of the composition.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The herbicidal composition of the invention, as noted above, comprises a combination of two active ingredients in an aqueous solution. One active ingredient comprises one or a mixture of fatty acids or salts of fatty acids. The other active ingredient is a glyphosate-based compound such as

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N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine. The concentration range of fatty acid active ingredient is about 0.1 to 3 percent by weight and the concentration range of glyphosate active ingredient component is about 0.08 to 2.0% by weight.

The fatty acid component of this herbicidal composition can be one or a mixture of fatty acids. The fatty acids which may be used include caprylic acid, pelargonic acid, capric acid, undecanoic acid, 10-undecanoic acid, lauric acid, oleic acid and mixtures thereof. Other fatty acid mixtures such as soybean fatty acid and coconut fatty acid (which are described below) may also form the fatty acid component. Pelargonic acid is a preferred fatty acid-based active ingredient. However, in other embodiments mixtures of fatty acids such as mixtures of pelargonic, capric and lauric acids; or a mixture of capric and lauric acids may be used as well.

Soybean fatty acids comprise a mixture of the following fatty acids in the following percentages by weight: 0.5% lauric acid, 0.5% myristic acid, 12% palmitic acid, 4% stearic acid, 25% oleic acid, 52% linoleic acid, and 6% linolenic acid. Coconut fatty acids comprise a mixture of the following fatty acids in the following percentages by weight: 7% caprylic acid, 6% capric acid, 50% lauric acid, 18% myristic acid, 8.5% palmitic acid, 3% stearic acid, 6% oleic acid, 1% linoleic acid and 0.5% linolenic acid.

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An exemplary non-saponified fatty acid active ingredient is pelargonic acid. Also, a mixture of pelargonic acid and capric acid, at a 1:1 ratio, serves as an effective saponified active ingredient.

Various fatty acid salts or mixtures of fatty acid salts may also be used as the fatty acid component of the herbicidal composition of this invention. These include sodium, potassium and other metal salts, as well as ammonium salts of caprylic acid, pelargonic acid, capric acid, undecanoic acid, 10-undecanoic acid, lauric acid, oleic acid, mixtures thereof and other fatty acid salt mixtures such as soybean fatty acid and coconut fatty acid.

Among the most preferred fatty acid salts are the sodium and potassium salts of pelargonic acid.

Other exemplary fatty acid salt mixtures which may be used as an active ingredient in the present herbicidal composition include the partial or complete sodium or potassium salts of pelargonic, capric acid and coconut fatty acid in a ratio of 1:1:2. Another exemplary saponified fatty acid mixture which may be used as an active ingredient in this herbicidal composition includes a 1:1 mixture of the partial or complete sodium or potassium salts of soybean and coconut fatty acids.

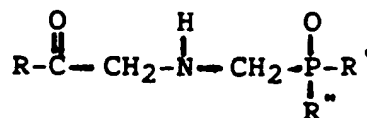
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A number of exemplary formulations which may be used as the fatty acid active ingredient of this invention are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 421,146 and 421,376 both of which were

16.6% coconut fatty acid
8.3% pelargonic acid
8.3% capric acid
9.78% potassium hydroxide (45% solution)
30.0% denatured alcohol
30.0% water

The other active ingredient of the herbicidal composition is the glyphosate-based compound. As used herein the term "glyphosate-based" includes N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine and various related compounds and salts as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,799,758, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Glyphosate-based compounds typically have the general formula:



In addition to the glyphosate-based compounds described above, the glyphosate-based component of this herbicidal composition may also include various salts of glyphosate-based compounds. Such salts may be prepared by the partial or complete neutralization of the acid with the appropriate base, carbonate, ammonia or organic amine. One preferred salt of a glyphosate-based compound is the isopropyl amine salt of N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine.

Exemplary glyphosate-based compounds are commercially available from Monsanto Company of St. Louis, Missouri under the trademarks ROUNDUP, ACCORD, HONCHO, RANGER, and RODEO.

The glyphosate-based component of the herbicidal composition may be present in the composition at a concentration range of about 0.08 to 2.0% by weight. The preferred concentration range is

about 0.1 to 1.0% by weight. If used alone, the preferred concentration range would have little or no herbicidal efficiency since the recommended application concentration is in the range of 1 to 2 percent by weight. Similarly, the fatty acid may be used in a concentration range of about 0.1 to 3.0 percent by weight. A more preferred concentration range for the fatty acid active ingredient is 0.5 to 1.0%. Which is below the concentration range of 3-6% ordinarily necessary to achieve herbicidal activity.

The herbicidal composition of this invention may be prepared by adding the desired amount of the glyphosate-based active ingredient to the required amount of water and mixing thoroughly. The desired amount of fatty acid (saponified or non-saponified) active ingredient formulation is then added and thoroughly mixed into the formulation. This formulation may be pre-formulated so as to form a ready-to-use composition, or may also be prepared just prior to use by tank mixing the two components. In some instances a pre-formulated, ready-to-use composition may require agitation immediately prior to use.

The present herbicidal compositions are foliar applied, nonselective herbicides which may be sprayed upon unwanted weeds and grasses. These herbicidal compositions may be provided in a ready-to-use formulation or in a concentrated formulation which must be diluted with water before application. The formulation applied to unwanted weeds and grasses typically contains in the range of

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The herbicidal compositions of the invention are effective and environmentally compatible. They are broad-spectrum, non-selective herbicides useful in crop, non-crop, aquatic, and domestic weed control, especially in environmentally sensitive areas where reduced pesticide loads are desirable. The compositions are effective on most weed species and are applied as postemergence sprays to foliage of vegetation to be controlled. One advantage of these compositions is that they have the ability to translocate. The carrier volumes are those recommended for glyphosates (47 to 374 l/ha, 5 to 40 gpa). Typically, 7 to 14 days are required before evidence of phytotoxicity or plant mortality appears.

The following non-limiting examples serve to further describe the invention.

Example 1

Three species of weed, used in each test: Hypochoeris radicata (false dandelion), Sinapis arvensis (wild mustard), and Avena sativa (oats), were grown in a greenhouse facility in 5.5cm square pots using a potting soil mix comprising peat, vermiculite, sand, and 4-10-10 fertilizer. Water-soluble 20-20-20 fertilizer was used as a supplement for the plants as required. The plants were selected for use based on uniformity and quality and were potted separately. One plant per pot each of H. radicata (6-10 leaves) and S. arvensis (4-6 leaves) were used. Six to eight plants of A. sativa (2-4 leaves) were used per pot. After spraying with a herbicidal composition (as described below) the pots were arranged in a randomized complete block design in sub-irrigated watering trays. Six to ten replicates (pots) were used per treatment.

Herbicidal treatments were applied using a spray chamber fitted with a TeeJet 8006E flat fan nozzle (available from Spraying Systems Co., Wheaton, Illinois), calibrated to spray at a volume of 60 gpa at 40 psi. Treatment solutions were freshly prepared for each experiment. Plant damage was assessed at 10 to 14 days after treatment using a pre-transformed 0-10 rating scale (0 representing no damage, 10 representing plant death) in accordance with the procedure outlined in Statistical Methods in Agricultural Research, Little, T.M. et al, J. Wiley and Sons, 1975, pp.119-120, 218.

The results of these experiments are shown in the tables which follow.

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TABLE I

Phytotoxicity (%)

Herbicide	<u>H. radicata</u>		<u>S. arvensis</u>		<u>A. sativa</u>	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
1. Round-Up* (0.1%)	22		1		4	
Formulation A** (0.1%)	0		0		4	
Combination	28	22	18	1	3	8
2. Round-Up (0.1%)	22		1		4	
Formulation A (0.5%)	1		0		4	
Combination	71	23	88	1	10	8
3. Round-Up (0.1%)	22		1		4	
Formulation A** (1.0%)	2		1		6	
Combination	64	24	39	2	58	10

*Round-Up is commercially available from Monsanto Company. Its active ingredient is the isopropylamine salt of N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine.

**Formulation A is a mixture of potassium pelargonate, potassium caprate and potassium laurate, in ratios of 1:1:2, used in this experiment at total active ingredient concentrations of 0.1, 0.5 and 1.0 percent by weight.

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In a greenhouse facility four plant species were grown in 5.5cm square pots using a potting soil mix comprising peat, vermiculite, sand and 4-10-10 fertilizer. Water soluble 20-20-20 fertilizer was used as a supplement for the plants as required. The plant species used were corn, oats, radish and morningglory. The plants were selected for use based on uniformity and quality. The corn plants used were in the 3 to 4 leaf stage and two plants were present in each pot. The oats used were in the 2 to 4 leaf stage and four plants were present per pot. The radish plants used were in the 3 to 5 leaf stage and one plant was used per pot. The morningglory were in the 2 to 4 leaf stage with one plant per pot. After spraying with a herbicidal formulation, the pots were arranged in a randomized complete block design in sub-irrigated watering trays, and included a water-treated control treatment. Four replicates (pots) were used for each treatment.

Herbicidal treatments were applied and recorded as in Example 1.

The data obtained are presented in the tables which follow.

TABLE 2

Herbicide	Phytotoxicity (%)					
	<u>H. radicata</u>		<u>S. arvensis</u>		<u>A. sativa</u>	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
1. Round-Up (0.1%)	22		1		1	
Sodium pelargonate (0.1%)	0		0		0	
Combination	47	22	35	1	2	1
2. Round-Up (0.1%)	22		1		1	
Sodium pelargonate (0.1%)	0		0		0	
Combination	47	22	80	1	2	1
3. Round-Up (0.1%)	22		1		1	
Sodium pelargonate (0.1%)	0		0		1	
Combination	56	22	88	2	2	2

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TABLE 3

Herbicide	Phytotoxicity (%)					
	<u>H. radicata</u>		<u>S. arvensis</u>		<u>A. sativa</u>	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
1. Round-Up (0.1%)	0		30		7	
Potassium						
pelargonate (0.1%)	0		0		6	
Combination	12	0	31	30	8	13
2. Round-Up (0.1%)	0		30		7	
Potassium						
pelargonate (0.5%)	0		0		5	
Combination	71	0	42	30	14	12
3. Round-Up (0.1%)	0		30		7	
Potassium						
pelargonate (0.5%)	3		2		7	
Combination	46	3	45	32	10	14

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TABLE 4

Herbicide	Phytotoxicity (%)					
	<i>H. radicata</i>		<i>S. arvensis</i>		<i>A. sativa</i>	
	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected	Observed	Expected
1. Round-Up (0.1%)	90		8		11	
Formulation B* (0.1%)	0		0		3	
Combination	96	90	14	8	8	14
2. Round-Up (0.1%)	90		8		11	
Formulation B (0.5%)	0		0		3	
Combination	99	90	9	8	13	14
3. Round-Up (0.1%)	90		8		11	
Formulation B (1.0%)	0		0		2	
Combination	99	90	13	8	9	13

*Formulation B is a 1:1 mixture of soybean and coconut fatty acids used in this experiment at a total active ingredient concentration of 0.1, 0.5 and 1.0% by weight.

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TABLE 5: Radish Plants

Days after Treatment	2	4	7	9	11	16	18	21	23	25	28	30	32	35	42	46	57
0.2% Round Up	Phyto* 0	0	1	1.5	3.0	4.25	4.25	4.75	6.0	5.75	6.25	6.25	6.5	5.75	5.0	5.0	5.25
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.1% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.0% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto 0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2% R-U* & 0.1% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto 0	0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.25	2.75	2.75	3.5	3.25	3.25	2.75	3.25	3.25	3.5	3.5	5.0
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2% R-U & 0.5% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto 0	0	1.0	2.5	4.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.25	7.0	7.25	7.0	6.75	6.75	6.75	7.0	8.25
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/4	2/4	2/4
0.2% R-U & 1.0% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto 0	0	2.0	3.0	4.5	6.5	6.5	6.25	6.75	6.5	6.50	6.75	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0	8.25
	Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1/4

*Phyto = Phytotoxicity (0-10 rating scale)

**R-U = Round-Up

° Denotes 1 of the 4 plants died.

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TABLE 6: Morningglory

Days after Treatment	2	4	7	9	11	16	18	21	23	25	28	30	32	35
0.2% Round Up	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.75	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
0.1% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.0% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2% R-U & 0.1% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	1.0	3.0	4.25	6.5	6.75	7.25	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.25	8.25	8.25
0.2% R-U & 0.5% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	1.0	3.0	5.75	8.0	8.75	8.75	9.75	10	10	10	10	10
0.2% R-U & 1.0% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	2.0	4.0	7.5	9.0	9.0	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4	4/4

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TABLE 7: Corn

Days after Treatment	2	4	7	9	11	16	18	21	23	25	28	30	32	35	42	46	57
0.2% Round Up	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.75	1.75	2.75	3.25	3.5	4.5	6.0	6.5	6.5	7.0
0.1% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0.25	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.0% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0	0	0.25	0.25	0.5	0.75	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2% R-U & 0.1% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	0	0.25	1.0	2.5	2.75	2.75	2.75	3.0	2.75	2.75	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.25	4.0
0.2% R-U & 0.5% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	1.0	1.25	1.5	2.0	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.5	2.50	2.50	3.25	3.75	4.75	4.5	4.5
0.2% R-U & 1.0% C9 Na+ Salt	Phyto Mortality 0	0	1.0	2.25	3.25	5.25	5.25	6.25	7.25	7.50	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.75	9.0	9.0	9.25

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TABLE 8: Oats*

Days after Treatment	2	4	7	9	11	16	18	21	23	25	28	30	32	35
0.2% Round Up	Phyto Mortality	0	0	0.75	1.0	1.5	1.75	1.5	1.5	1.75	2.25	2.0	2.0	2.5
0.1% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.0% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2% R-U & 0.1% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality	0	0	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.25	1.25	1.5
0.2% R-U & 0.5% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality	0	0	0.75	1.5	1.75	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.75	1.0	1.0	1.5
0.2% R-U & 1.0% C9 Na ⁺ Salt	Phyto Mortality	0	0	1.0	1.5	2.25	3.0	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.5	3.25	3.5	4.0

*Note: No mortality was observed, results presented are phytotoxicity ratings only

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In addition, an enhanced herbicidal effect resulting from the application of a combination herbicide (including glyphosate-based herbicide and fatty acid based herbicide) is not supported in every species in each experiment. There are a number of reasons for this. Primarily, though, in herbicidal experiments, the conditions under which the plants are grown (light, temperature and humidity), the age of the plants, the species and variety of plant, and the rate and method of application of herbicidal components all can influence the ratios at which enhanced herbicidal activity is observed. In addition, a test method selected may, in some cases, be so hypersensitive that the additive effect of the two active ingredient components results in plant death. Therefore potentiation cannot always be detected.

What is claimed is: